

## Part 7. Centers of Excellence

### **[9-2-601]. 63-38f-701. Purpose.**

(1) (a) The Legislature recognizes that the growth of new industry and expansion of existing industry requires a strong technology base, new ideas, concepts, innovations, and prototypes.

(b) These generally come from strong research colleges and universities.

(c) Technical research in Utah's colleges and universities should be enhanced and expanded, particularly in those areas targeted by the state for economic development.

(d) Most states are enhancing their research base by direct funding, usually on a matching basis.

(e) The purpose of this part is to catalyze and enhance the growth of these technologies by encouraging interdisciplinary research activities in targeted areas.

(f) The Legislature recognizes that one source of funding is in matching state funds with federal funds and industrial support to provide the needed new technologies.

(2) The Legislature recommends that the governor consider the allocation of economic development funds for Centers of Excellence to be matched by industry and federal grants on at least a two-for-one basis.

(3) (a) The Legislature recommends that ~~[such]~~ the funds be allocated on a competitive basis to the various colleges and universities in the state.

(b) The funds made available should be used to support interdisciplinary research in specialized Centers of Excellence in technologies that are considered to have potential for economic development in this state.

Section 68. Section **63-38f-702** , which is renumbered from Section 9-2-602 is renumbered and amended to read:

### **[9-2-602]. 63-38f-702. Title.**

~~[(1)]~~ This part is known as the "Centers of Excellence Act."

~~[(2) As used in this part, "Centers of Excellence" means university-based, industry-supported, cooperative research and development programs.]~~

Section 69. Section **63-38f-703** is enacted to read:

### **63-38f-703. Definitions.**

As used in this part, "centers of excellence" means university-based, industry-supported, cooperative research and development programs.

Section 70. Section **63-38f-704** , which is renumbered from Section 9-2-603 is renumbered and amended to read:

### **[9-2-603]. 63-38f-704. Administration -- Grants.**

(1) This part shall be administered by the ~~[Division of Business and]~~ Governor's Office of Economic Development.

(2) The ~~[department]~~ office may award grants to the various colleges and universities in the state for the purposes of this part.

(3) (a) ~~[Recommendations for funding]~~ Funding allocations shall be made by the ~~[division]~~ office with the advice of the State Advisory Council for Science and Technology~~[- with the approval of]~~ and the board.

(b) Each proposal shall receive the best available outside review.

(4) (a) In considering each proposal, the ~~[division]~~ office shall weigh technical merit, the level of matching funds from private and federal sources, and the potential for job creation and economic development.

(b) Proposals or consortia that combine and coordinate related research at two or more colleges and universities shall be encouraged.

(5) The State Advisory Council on Science and Technology shall review the activities and progress of individual centers on a regular basis and assist the ~~[division]~~ office in preparing an annual report on the accomplishments and direction of the Centers of Excellence Program.